

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Korea  
SUBJECT Commodity Prices, Ch'ongjin Area

REPORT

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REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Comment. The following report was submitted

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which presented a commodity price list for the Ch'ongjin area as of 13 October 1952. The country of origin is indicated by the following letter symbols appearing in parentheses directly following the name of the item: (S), USSR; (C), Czechoslovakia; (CC), Communist China;

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Where no symbol appears the item was probably of Korean origin.

On 10 February 1953, food and commodity prices in the Ch'ongjin area were as follows:

## a. Food:

Item	Unit of Measurement <sup>1</sup>	Wholesale Price (NK won)	Retail Price (NK won)
Rice	1 large mal <sup>2</sup>	1,900	2,000
Millet	1 large mal <sup>2</sup>	1,600	1,700
Beans	1 large mal <sup>2</sup>	1,200	1,300
Flour (S)	1 kilogram	Unknown	100
Beef	3.75 grams <sup>3</sup>	Unknown	150
Pork	3.75 grams <sup>3</sup>	Unknown	160
Chicken	1	Unknown	500
Eggs	1	Unknown	20

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC						
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Sauce	1 pound	Unknown	90
Bean sauce	1 kilogram	Unknown	60
Pepper powder	1.8 pounds	Unknown	1,000
Garlic	100 (sic)	Unknown	450
Korean wine	1.8 pounds	Unknown	1,500
Vodka (S)	1.72 pounds	Unknown	1,100
Salt	1 kilogram	25	30
Raw pollack	1	11	13
Dried pollack	1	15	18
Raw herring	1	30	35
Salted herring	1	40	50
Superior seaweed	1 kwan	700	850
Inferior seaweed	1 kwan	400	500
Laver	20 sheets	60	80
Dried cuttlefish	20	600	700
Sea slug	1 kwan	4,000	4,500
Apples	1 kilogram	80	100
Pears	1 kilogram	120	150
b. <u>Restaurant Prices:</u>			
Noodles	1 bowl		100
Rice and meat soup	1 bowl		100
Rice with side food	1 bowl		200
Chinese tempura	1 serving		400
Chinese mixed vegetables	1 serving		250
Chinese high-class food (sic)	1 serving		500

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (HK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (HK won)</u>
<b>a. Clothing:</b>			
Men's cotton winter underwear (CG)	1 suit	6,500	8,000
Men's cotton summer underwear (CG)	1 suit	4,500	5,500
Ladies' cotton winter underwear (CG)	1 suit	6,000	7,000
Ladies' spring underwear (CG)	1 suit	2,100	2,500
Winter working suit (cotton)	1	8,000	9,000
Men's cotton socks (CG)	1 pair	300	350
Ladies' cotton stockings (CG)	1 pair	550	600
Ladies' silk stockings (CG)	1 pair	1,100	1,200
Velvet skirt (new)	1	Unknown	30,000
Velvet skirt (second hand)	1	Unknown	18,000
Satin silk skirt (new)	1	Unknown	5,000
Satin silk skirt (second hand)	1	Unknown	4,000
Ladies' thick silk blouse	1	Unknown	2,500
Ladies' medium silk blouse	1	Unknown	2,000
Men's rubber shoes	1 pair	1,400	1,500
Men's medium size rubber shoes	1 pair	1,100	1,200
Men's small rubber shoes	1 pair	550	600
Ladies' white rubber shoes	1 pair	1,900	2,000

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>	
Ladies' blue rubber shoes	1 pair	2,200	2,300	
Ladies' black rubber shoes	1 pair	1,500	1,600	
Working shoes (CC)	1 pair	1,400	1,500	
Basketball shoes	1 pair	1,900	2,000	
Tennis shoes	1 pair	1,700	1,800	
Men's boots	1 pair	Unknown	8,000	
Ladies leather shoes	1 pair	Unknown	7,000	
d. <u>Drygoods:</u>				
Sheeting (CC)	1 yard	800	900	
Black sheeting	1 yard	900	1,000	
White cotton cloth	1 roll (sic)	3,000	3,300	
Colored cotton cloth	1 roll (sic)	3,300	3,600	
Haebang cloth (CC)	1 yard	800	1,000	
Rayon and silk cloth	1 yard	400	500	
Rayon cloth	1 yard	120	130	
Cotton thread	1 spool	15	20	
Sewing machine thread	2,000 yards	700	800	
Cloth for winter suit (gentlemen)	1 set (sic)	18,000	20,000	25X1
Cloth for spring suit	1 set (sic)	16,000	18,000	25X1
Cloth for summer suit	1 set (sic)	11,000	13,000	25X1
White towel (CC)	1	300	350	

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Colored towel (CC)	1	400	450
Home-made towel	1	200	250
e. <u>Cosmetics and Notions:</u>			
Toilet soap	1 (sic)	Unknown	50
"Lily" brand soap (CC)	1 (sic)	Unknown	300
Washing soap	1 (sic)	Unknown	133
"Milk" brand washing soap (CC)	1 (sic)	Unknown	400
Tooth powder (CC)	1 (sic)	Unknown	150
Face powder (CC)	1 (sic)	Unknown	1,500
Face cream (CC)	1 (sic)	Unknown	1,100
Tooth brush (CC)	1	Unknown	100
f. <u>Fuel:</u>			
Carbide	1 ton	52,000	60,000
Artificial petroleum	1 ton	180,000	240,000
Gasoline (CC)	1 ton	170,000	200,000
Mobile oil (CC)	1 ton	190,000	220,000
Heavy oil	1 ton	8,000	10,000
Smokeless coal	1 ton	Unknown	4,000
Coal	1 ton	Unknown	4,500
Fuel wood	1 horse cart (sic)	Unknown	4,000
Charcoal	1 bag (15 kilograms)	Unknown	500
g. <u>Medicines:</u>			
Oil penicillin (CC)	1 bottle (200,000 unit)	2,500	3,000
Oil penicillin (CC)	1 bottle (600,000 unit)	7,000	8,000
Chloramphenicol (CC)	1 (sic)	5,500	6,000

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Diazine (CC)	1 (sic)	90	120
Diazine ointment (CC)	1 bottle	400	500
Guanidine (CC)	1 (sic)	60	80
Thiazole (CC)	1 (sic)	45	60
Santonin (S)	1 pound	45,000	50,000
Calcium	1 bottle (20 grams)	Unknown	150
Procaine	1 bottle (20 grams)	Unknown	100
Salvarsan injection (S)	1 bottle	Unknown	90
Salvarsan injection <input type="checkbox"/>	1 bottle	Unknown	400
Aspirin	1 (sic)	Unknown	30

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h. Writing Materials:

Thin paper	1 sheet	Unknown	20
Thin paper (CC)	1 sheet	Unknown	80
Document paper (CC)	1 sheet	Unknown	20
Bookkeeping paper (CC)	1 book	Unknown	1,500
Notebook binder	1	Unknown	300
Korean door paper	1 sheet	Unknown	400
Inferior fountain pen (CC)	1	Unknown	500
Superior fountain pen	1	Unknown	2,000
"Parker" fountain pen <input type="checkbox"/>	1	Unknown	15,000
Pencil (C)	1	Unknown	100
Pencil point (C)	1	Unknown	50
Ink	1 (sic)	Unknown	15

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
<b>i. <u>Chemicals:</u></b>			
Caustic soda	1 ton	420,000	500,000
Sulphate 80 degree (sic)	1 ton	520,000	600,000
Saccharine	1 pound	65,000	80,000
Bicarbonate soda	1 ton	80,000	100,000
Nitrogen fertilizer	1 ton	35,000	40,000
<b>j. <u>Metal Products:</u></b>			
Steel cable	220 meters	85,000	100,000
Telephone wire	20 meters	800	1,000
Copper telephone wire	20 meters	1,200	1,500
Covered electric wire	1 meter	50	60
Weatherproof electric wire	5 millimeters	80	90
Tangarabide (sic) (for lathes)	1 kwan	190,000	200,000
Nails 2"	1 kwan	Unknown	6,000 <sup>4</sup>
Nails 5"	1 kwan	Unknown	3,000 <sup>4</sup>
Water pipe 1.5"	1 meter	Unknown	300
Korean kettle	1	Unknown	700
Sickle	1	Unknown	150
Axe	1	Unknown	500
Razor <input type="checkbox"/>	1	Unknown	1,500
Lighter (CC)	1	Unknown	2,500
<b>k. <u>Lumber:</u></b>			
Log (red pine)	1 sai	Unknown	90
Log (cypress)	1 sai	Unknown	120

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Lumber	1 sai	Unknown	140
Timber	1 sai	Unknown	120
1. <u>Miscellaneous:</u>			
Raw rubber (CC)	1 kwan	4,500	5,000
Auto tires (S)	1	Unknown	20,000
Auto tires <input type="checkbox"/>	1	Unknown	35,000
Matches	10 boxes	Unknown	15
Matches (CC)	10 boxes	Unknown	25
Leather bag	1	Unknown	15,000
17 jewel, 18K gold wrist watch (second hand) <input type="checkbox"/>	1	Unknown	60,000
17 jewel, nickel wrist watch <input type="checkbox"/>	1	Unknown	30,000
Pure gold	1 momme	Unknown	6,500 <sup>5</sup>
Silver	1 momme	Unknown	400 <sup>6</sup>
Glass	1 sai	Unknown	180
Haircut	1	Unknown	70
Bath	1	Unknown	50
Hotel fee with two meals	1 (sic)		300

1. ☐ Comment. The western equivalents of the Korean units of measurement used in this report are as follows: large mal, a little less than 30 pounds or about one-half bushel; small mal, half of a large mal; kwan, 3.75 kilograms or about eight pounds; momme, 3.75 grams; sai, about one cubic foot.
2. ☐ Comment. Probably the unit of measurement, the large mal, is an error, and the small mal is intended.
3. ☐ Comment. Probably 3.75 kilograms is intended.
4. ☐ Comment. The difference between the retail price for the same quantity of five-inch nails and two-inch nails seems unreasonable.
5. ☐ Comment. ☐ in October 1952 the price of gold for 1 momme was 60,000 won.
6. ☐ Comment. The retail price for silver, as given in this report, seems to be incredibly low.

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